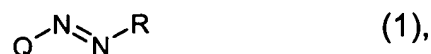


IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method of colouring porous material, which method comprises applying to the material being coloured, in any desired order successively, or simultaneously,

a) at least one capped diazonium compound of formula (1)

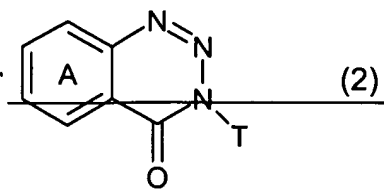


wherein

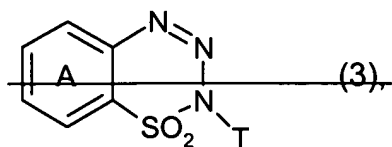
Q is an unsubstituted phenyl; naphthyl; thiophenyl; 1,3-thiazolyl; 1,2-thiazolyl; 1,3-benzothiazolyl; 2,3-benzothiazolyl; imidazolyl; 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl; 1,3,5-thiadiazolyl; 1,3,4-triazolyl; pyrazolyl; benzimidazolyl; benzopyrazolyl; pyridinyl; quinolinyl; pyrimidinyl; isoxazolyl; aminodiphenyl; aminodiphenylether and azobenzenyl or

Q is a phenyl, naphthyl, thiophenyl, 1,3-thiazolyl, 1,2-thiazolyl, 1,3-benzothiazolyl, 2,3-benzothiazolyl, imidazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,5-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-triazolyl, pyrazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzopyrazolyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, pyrimidinyl and isoxazolyl, aminodiphenyl, aminodiphenylether and azobenzenyl which is mono- or poly-substituted by C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkylthio, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, CN, SCN, C₁-C₄alkylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, benzylsulfonyl, di-C₁-C₄alkylaminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄alkyl-carbonylamino, C₁-C₄alkoxysulfonyl or by di-(hydroxy-C₁-C₄alkyl)-aminosulfonyl.

R is a radical of formula -NR₁₆R₁₇, wherein R₁₆ is H; unsubstituted linear or branched C₁-C₆alkyl or linear or branched C₁-C₆alkyl, which is substituted by one or more identical or different substituent selected from the group consisting of OC₁-C₄alkyl, COOH, COOC₁-C₂alkyl, SO₃H, NH₂, CN, halogen and OH, and R₁₇ is unsubstituted linear or branched C₁-C₆alkyl or linear or branched C₁-C₆alkyl, which is substituted by one or more identical or different substituent selected from the group consisting of OC₁-C₄alkyl, COOH, COOC₁-C₂alkyl, SO₃H, NH₂, CN, halogen and OH, and/or at least one compound of formula (2)



and/or at least one compound of formula (3)



wherein

~~Q is an unsubstituted or substituted aromatic or heterocyclic residue,~~

~~R is the radical of an unsubstituted or substituted, water-soluble aliphatic or aromatic amine, and~~

~~T is an unsubstituted or substituted, water-soluble aliphatic or aromatic residue,~~

~~wherein at least one of the groups must contain a radical imparting water solubility,~~

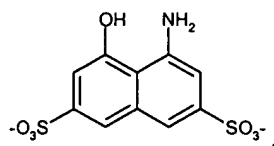
and

b) at least one water-soluble coupling component

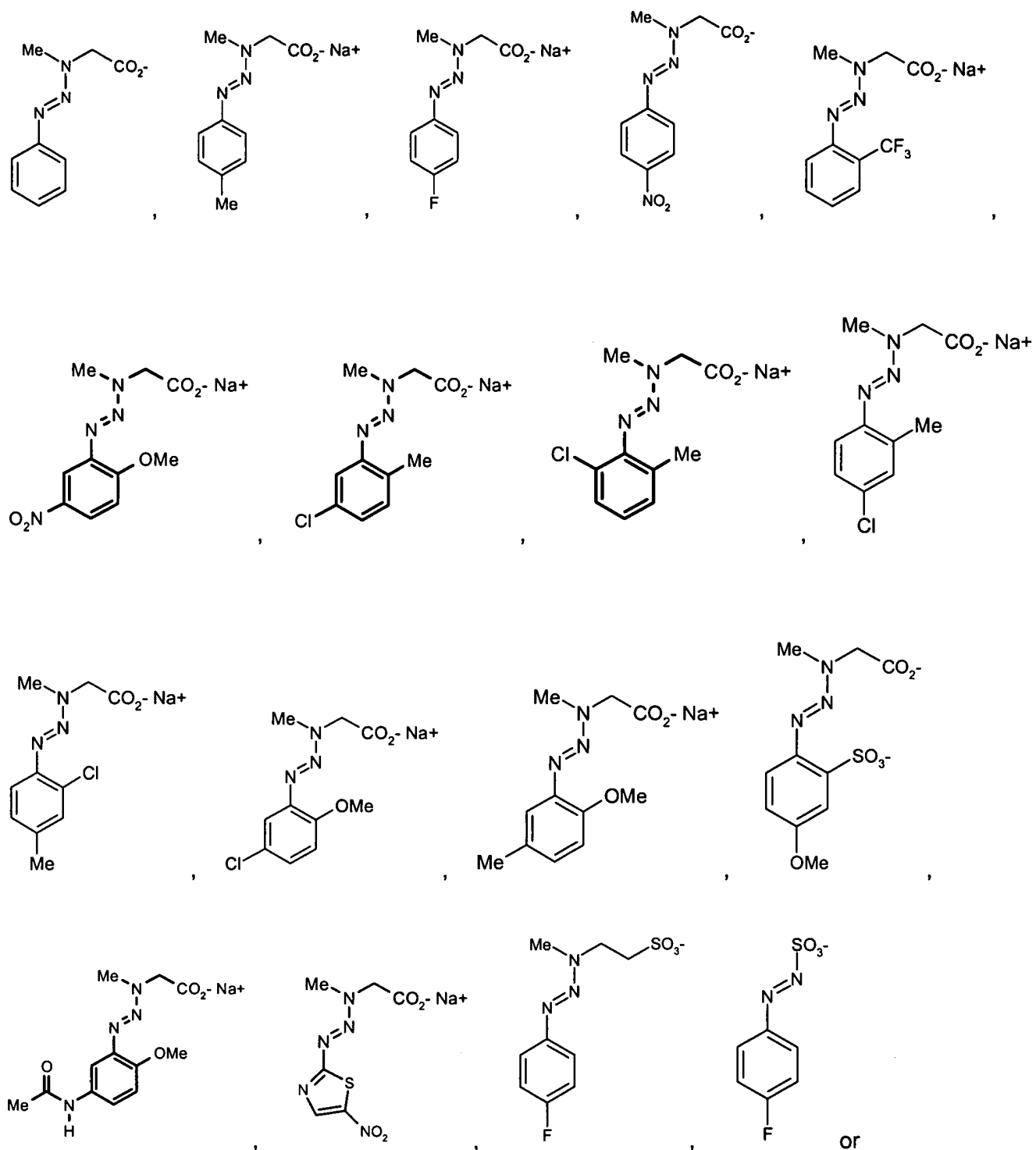
under conditions such that, initially, coupling does not take place, and then causing the capped diazonium compound present on the material to react with the coupling component,

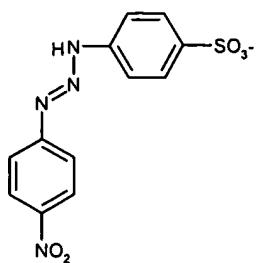
with the provisos that

(i) if the water-soluble coupling component is

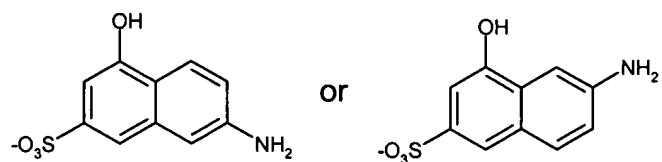


then the capped diazonium compounds is not

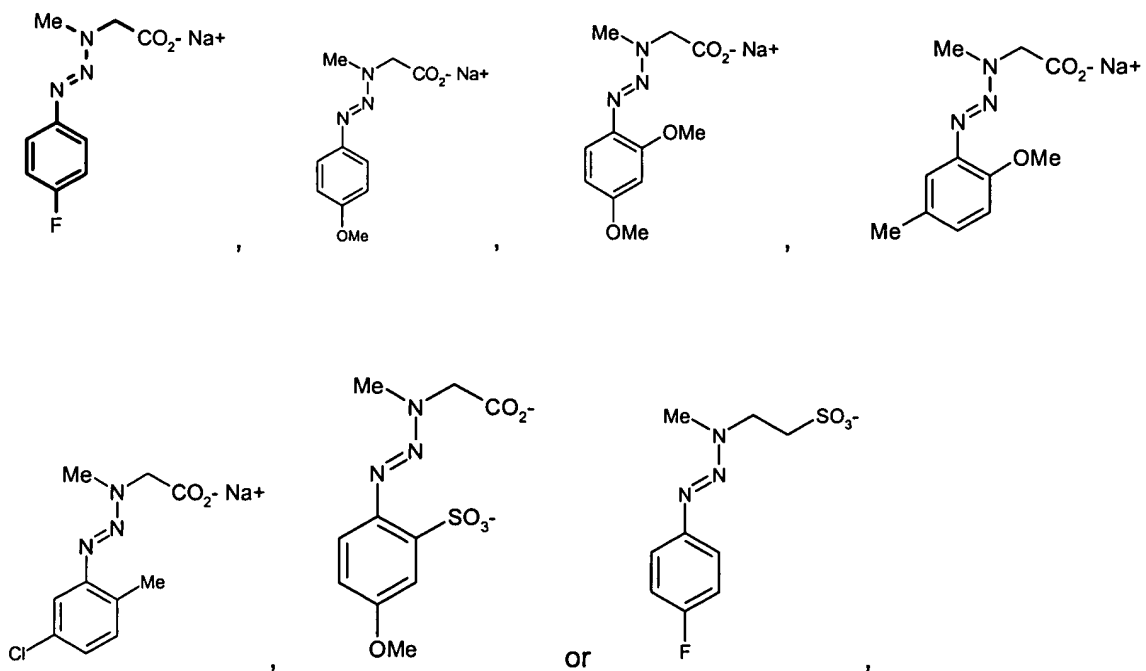




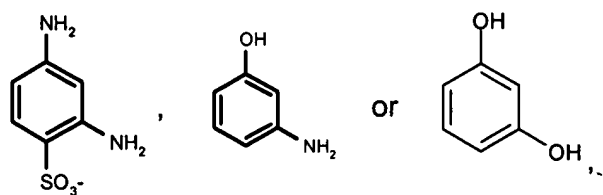
(ii) if the water-soluble coupling component is



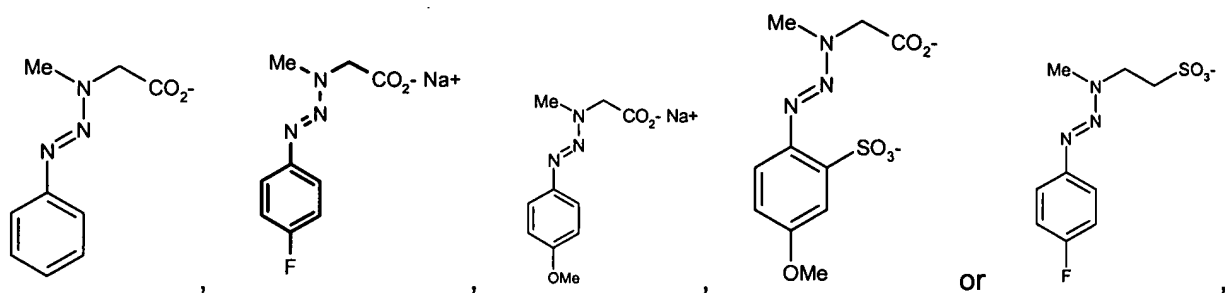
then the capped diazonium compound is not



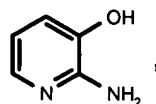
(iii) if the water-soluble coupling component is



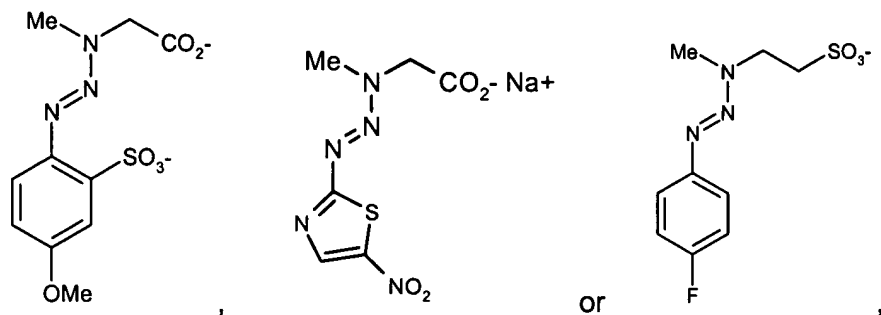
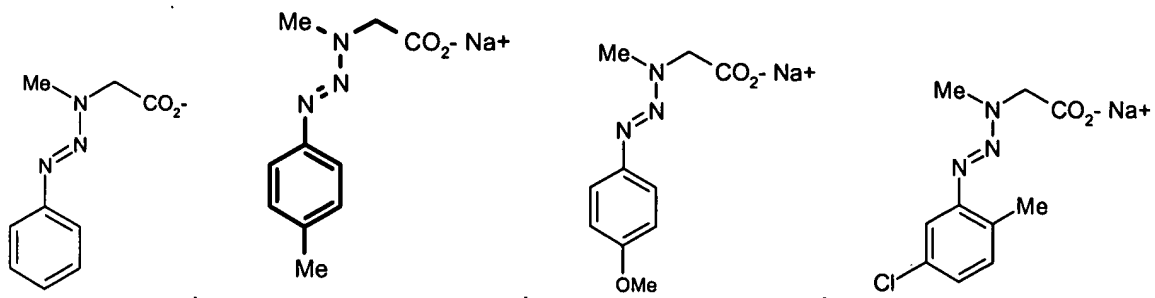
then the capped diazonium compound is not



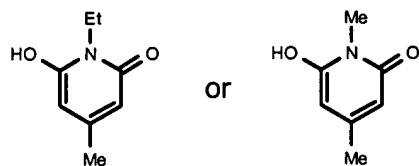
(iv) if the water-soluble coupling component is



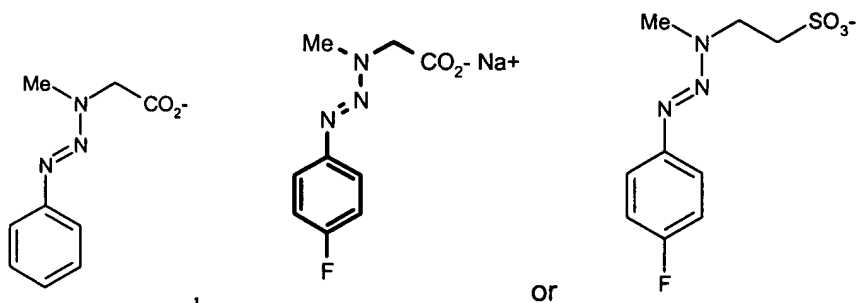
then the capped diazonium compound is not



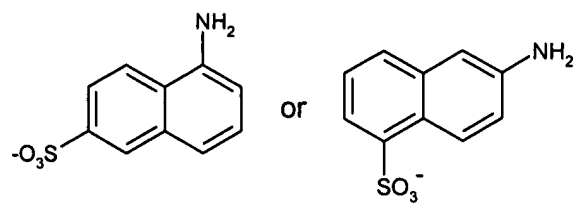
(v) if the water-soluble coupling component is



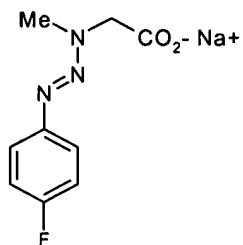
then the capped diazonium compound is not



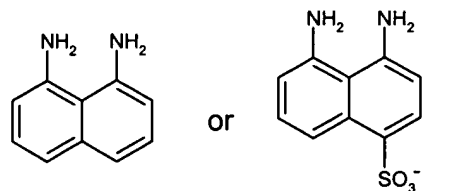
(vi) if the water-soluble coupling component is



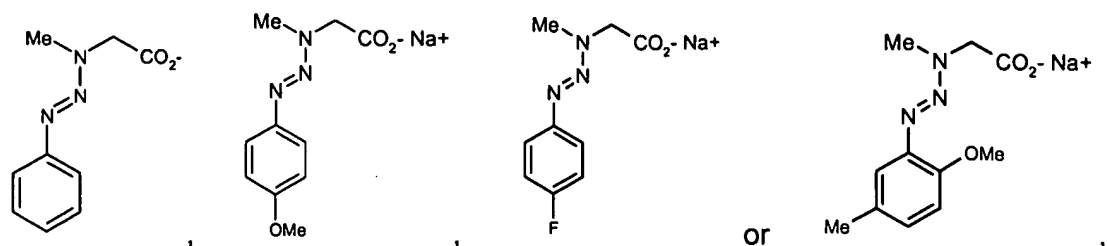
then the capped diazonium compound is not



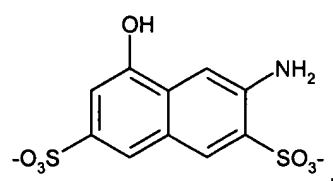
(vii) if the water-soluble coupling component is



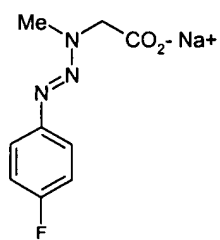
then the capped diazonium compound is not



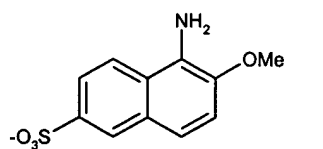
(viii) if the water-soluble coupling component is



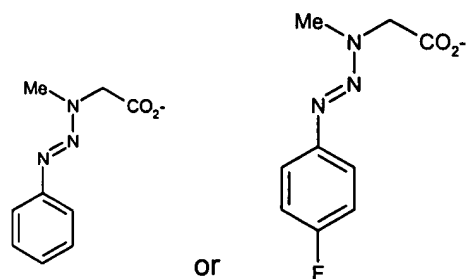
then the capped diazonium compound is not



(ix) if the water-soluble coupling component is

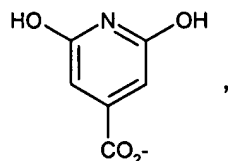


then the capped diazonium compound is not

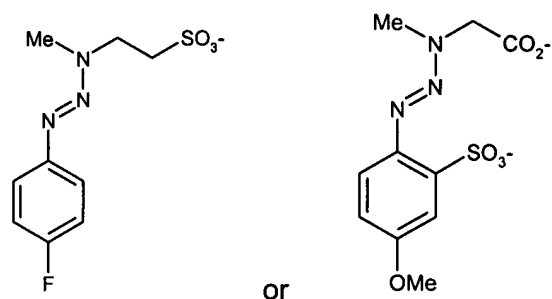


and

(x) if the water-soluble coupling component is



then the diazonium capped compound is not



2-4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the coupling component is an unsubstituted or substituted acylacetarylamide, phenol, naphthol, pyridine, quinolone, pyrazole, indole, diphenylamine, aniline, aminopyridine, pyrimidone, naphthylamine, aminothiazole, thiophene or hydroxypyridine.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the coupling component is mono- or poly-substituted by amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, naphthyl or by aryloxy.

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, which method comprises applying to the material being coloured, in any desired order successively, or simultaneously,

a) at least one capped diazonium compound of formula (1)



wherein

Q is an unsubstituted phenyl; naphthyl; thiophenyl; 1,3-thiazolyl; 1,2-thiazolyl; 1,3-benzothiazolyl; 2,3-benzothiazolyl; imidazolyl; 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl; 1,3,5-thiadiazolyl; 1,3,4-triazolyl; pyrazolyl; benzimidazolyl; benzopyrazolyl; pyridinyl; quinolinyl; pyrimidinyl; isoxazolyl; aminodiphenyl; aminodiphenylether and azobenzenyl or

Q is a phenyl, naphthyl, thiophenyl, 1,3-thiazolyl, 1,2-thiazolyl, 1,3-benzothiazolyl, 2,3-benzothiazolyl, imidazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,5-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-triazolyl, pyrazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzopyrazolyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, pyrimidinyl and isoxazolyl, aminodiphenyl, aminodiphenylether and azobenzenyl which is mono- or poly-substituted by C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkylthio, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, CN, SCN, C₁-C₄alkylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, benzylsulfonyl, di-C₁-C₄alkylaminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄alkyl-carbonylamino, C₁-C₄alkoxysulfonyl or by di-(hydroxy-C₁-C₄alkyl)-aminosulfonyl,

R is a radical of formula -NR₁₆R₁₇, wherein R₁₆ is H; unsubstituted linear or branched C₁-C₆alkyl or linear or branched C₁-C₆alkyl, which is substituted by one or more identical or different substituent selected from the group consisting of OC₁-C₄alkyl, COOH, COOC₁-C₂alkyl, SO₃H, NH₂, CN, halogen and OH, and R₁₇ is unsubstituted linear or branched C₁-C₆alkyl or linear or branched C₁-C₆alkyl, which is substituted by one or more identical or different substituent selected from the group consisting of OC₁-C₄alkyl, COOH, COOC₁-C₂alkyl, SO₃H, NH₂, CN, halogen and OH,

and

b) at least one water-soluble coupling component selected from the group consisting of acylacetaryl amides, phenols, naphthols, pyridones, quinolones, pyrazoles, indoles, diphenylamines, anilines, aminopyridines, pyrimidones, naphthylamines, aminothiazoles, thiophenes and hydroxypyridines, which all may carry further substituents selected from the group consisting of amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, hydroxy, carboxy and sulfo, under conditions such that, initially, coupling does not take place, and then causing the capped diazonium compound present on the material to react with the coupling component, wherein the same provisos as in claim 1 apply.

9. (previously presented) A method of colouring porous material according to claim 1, which method comprises applying to the material being coloured, in any desired order successively, or simultaneously,

a) at least two capped diazonium compounds as defined in claim 1 and

b) at least one water-soluble coupling component

under conditions such that, initially, coupling does not take place, and then causing the capped diazonium compound present on the material to react with the coupling component.

10. (previously presented) A method of colouring porous material according to claim 1, which method comprises applying to the material being coloured, in any desired order successively, or simultaneously,

a) at least one capped diazonium compound as defined in claim 1 and

b) at least two water-soluble coupling components

under conditions such that, initially, coupling does not take place, and then causing the capped diazonium compound present on the material to react with the coupling component.

11. (previously presented) A method of colouring porous material according to claim 1, which method comprises applying to the material being coloured, in any desired order successively, or simultaneously,

a) at least two capped diazonium compounds as defined in claim 1 and

b) at least two water-soluble coupling components

under conditions such that, initially, coupling does not take place, and then causing the capped diazonium compound present on the material to react with the coupling component.

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, which method comprises bringing the material being coloured into contact with

a) at least one capped diazonium compound as defined in claim 1 and

b) at least one water-soluble coupling component,

in any desired order successively, or simultaneously,

a) under alkaline conditions in the presence of an oxidising agent and optionally in the presence of a further dye, and

then subjecting the material being coloured to treatment with acid, or

b) under alkaline conditions, and

then subjecting the material being coloured to treatment with acid, optionally in the presence of a further dye,

wherein the same provisos as in claim 1 apply.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the coupling component is unsubstituted or substituted acylacetarylamine, phenol, naphthol, pyridine, quinolone, pyrazole, indole, diphenylamine, aniline, aminopyridine, pyrimidone, naphthylamine, aminothiazole, thiophene or hydroxypyridine.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the coupling component is mono- or poly-substituted by amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, naphthyl or by aryloxy.

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A colouring composition for carrying out the method according to claim 1, comprising

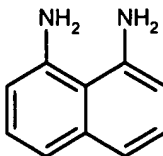
- a) at least one compound of formula (1), ~~(2) and/or (3)~~ described in claim 1,
 - b) a medium for adjusting the pH,
 - c) water,
- and, optionally,
- d) further additives.

17. (currently amended) A colouring composition according to claim 16, comprising

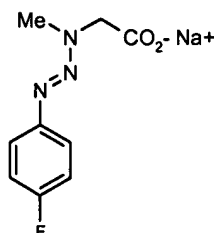
- a) at least one compound of formula (1), ~~(2) and/or (3)~~,
 - b) a medium for adjusting the pH,
 - c) water,
 - d) at least one coupling component,
- and, optionally,
- e) further additives,

with the provisos that

(i) if the water-soluble coupling component is

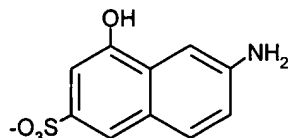


then the capped diazonium compound must not be

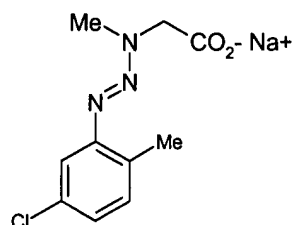


and

(ii) if the water-soluble coupling component is



then the capped diazonium compound must not be



18. (currently amended) A colouring composition for carrying out the method according to claim 17, comprising

- a) at least one compound of formula (1), ~~(2)~~ and/or ~~(3)~~,
- b) a medium for adjusting the pH,
- c) water,
- d) at least one water-soluble coupling component selected from the group consisting of acylacetarlamides, phenols, naphthols, pyridones, quinolones, pyrazoles, indoles, diphenylamines, anilines, aminopyridines, pyrimidones, naphthylamines, aminothiazoles, thiophenes and hydroxypyridines, which all may carry further substituents selected from the group consisting of amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy,

hydroxy, carboxy and sulfo
and, optionally,
e) further additives,
wherein the same provisos as in claim 17 apply.

19. (currently amended) A colouring composition for carrying out the method according to claim 17, comprising

- a) at least one compound of formula (1), ~~(2)~~ and/or ~~(3)~~,
- b) a medium for adjusting the pH,
- c) water,
- d) at least one water-soluble coupling component selected from the group consisting of acylacetaryl amides, phenols, naphthols, pyridones, quinolones, pyrazoles, indoles, diphenylamines, anilines, aminopyridines, pyrimidones, naphthylamines, aminothiazoles, thiophenes and hydroxypyridines, which all may carry further substituents selected from the group consisting of amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, hydroxy, carboxy and sulfo,
 - e) a further dye which is an oxidation dye, or a cationic, anionic or uncharged direct dye,
and, optionally,
 - f) further additives,

wherein the same provisos as in claim 17 apply.